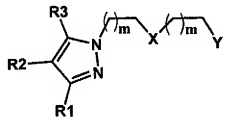
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of the claims, which replaces all previous versions and listings of the claims.

1-35. (Cancelled)

36. (Previously Presented) Chelating agent of the general formula:



wherein m is 0 or 1;

X is NR_4 or S;

Y is SR_5, NHR_5 or $P(R_5)_2$;

R_1 and R_3 are the same or different and are selected from H, alkyl or aryl;

R_2 is H, COOH, NHR_6 or $(CH_2)_nCOOR_6$;

R_4 is H, alkyl, aryl, $(CH_2)_nCOOR_6$ or $(CH_2)_nOR_6$;

R_5 is H, alkyl, aryl, $(CH_2)_nCOOR_6$ or $(CH_2)_nOR_6$;

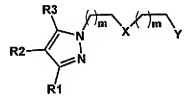
R_6 is H, alkyl or aryl;

n is 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 or 10; and

wherein at least one of R_1, R_3, R_4, R_5, and R_6 is phenyl or benzyl.

37. (Cancelled)

38. (Currently Amended) Chelating agent of the general formula:



wherein m is 0 or 1;

X is NR_4 or S;

Y is SR_5, NHR_4 or $P(R_5)_2$;

R_1 and R_3 are the same or different and are selected from H, alkyl or aryl, wherein at least one of R_1 and R_3 is aryl;

R_2 is H, COOH, NHR_6 or $(CH_2)_nCOOR_6$;

R_4 is H, alkyl, aryl, $(CH_2)_nCOOR_6$ or $(CH_2)_nOR_6$;

R_5 is H, alkyl, aryl, $(CH_2)_nCOOR_6$ or $(CH_2)_nOR_6$;

R_6 is H, a biomolecule, alkyl or aryl; and

n is 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 or 10.

39-42. (Cancelled)

43. (Previously Presented) A metal complex comprising the chelating agent of claim 36.

44. (Previously Presented) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 38, wherein R_6 is a biomolecule.

45. (Previously Presented) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 44, wherein the biomolecule is selected from amino acids, peptides, proteins, oligonucleotides, polynucleotides, and sugars.

46. (Previously Presented) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 44, wherein the biomolecule is selected from the group consisting of antibodies and ligands of tumor receptors.

47. (Previously Presented) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 44, wherein the biomolecule is selected from the group consisting of CCK, thioglucose, glucosamine, somatostatin, neurotensin, bombesin, annexin, interleukins, growth factors, steroid hormones and molecules binding to GPIIb/IIIIa receptors.

48. (Previously Presented) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 44, wherein the biomolecule is selected from the group consisting of glucose, thioglucose, and neurotransmitters.

49. (Previously Presented) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 44, wherein the biomolecule is an inhibitor of the tyrosine kinase activity.

50. (Cancelled)

51. (Previously Presented) The chelating agent as claimed in claim 36, wherein when $R_1 = R_3 = CH_3$, R_2, R_4 and R_5 are not all three H.

52. (Previously Presented) The chelating agent as claimed in claim 38, wherein when R_1 or R_3 is CH_3, R_2, R_4 and R_5 are not all three H.

53. (New) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 36, wherein alkyl is a C_1 alkyl, C_2 alkyl, C_3 alkyl, C_4 alkyl, C_5 alkyl or C_6 alkyl.

54. (New) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 53, wherein alkyl is methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, *n*-butyl, isobutyl, *s*-butyl, *t*-butyl, *n*-pentyl, isopentyl, neopentyl, *n*-hexyl, isohexyl (2-methylpentyl), neohexyl (2,2-dimethylbutyl), 3-methylpentyl, 2,3-dimethylbutyl.

55. (New) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 36, wherein n is 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6.

56. (New) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 38, wherein alkyl is a C_1 alkyl, C_2 alkyl, C_3 alkyl, C_4 alkyl, C_5 alkyl or C_6 alkyl.

57. (New) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 56, wherein alkyl is methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, *n*-butyl, isobutyl, *s*-butyl, *t*-butyl, *n*-pentyl, isopentyl, neopentyl, *n*-hexyl, isohexyl (2-methylpentyl), neohexyl (2,2-dimethylbutyl), 3-methylpentyl, 2,3-dimethylbutyl.

58. (New) Chelating agent as claimed in claim 38, wherein n is 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6.